

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet from the drawings includes changes Fig 1. The sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig 1. Referential number 15 is included in the drawing for the portion and the spoke, and referential number 11 is included for the axis of rotation. No new matter is added in these amendments to the drawings.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5-14 are pending. Claims 3, 7-9, and 11 are amended, claims 1, 2, and 4 are canceled, and claims 13 and 14 are amended. Claims 5 and 6 are allowed.

Referential numbers are included in the drawing for the portion and the axis of rotation in claim 3 and the spoke in claims 9 and 10. An annotated drawing sheet is provided that shows these changes marked in red. The specification is amended to provide the proper antecedent basis for the portion and the axis of rotation in claim 3 and the spoke in claims 9 and 10. No new matter is added in the drawings or the specification. Thus, the objection to the drawings and specification should be withdrawn.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claim 8 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 8 is amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claims. Claim 8 is also amended to clarify that the phrase "axis of rotation" refers to the same thing, the axis of rotation of the steering wheel in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Therefore, claim 8 is allowable.

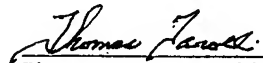
Claim 3 is amended to recite that the least one separate support component engages said skeleton and is directly connected to the skeleton. Claim 3 patentably defines over Bohn. Bohn does not disclose or suggest at least one separate support component that engages the skeleton and is directly connected to the skeleton. By contrast, Bohn discloses the washer 13, which the examiner considers to be the support component, is spaced from the skeleton and arranged above flange 11. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable. Claims 10 and 12, which depend from claim 3, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 7, 9, and 11, which are amended to depend from claim 5, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein. New claim 13 is substantially similar to claim 2 but rewritten to depend from allowed claim 5 instead of claim 1. New claim 14 is substantially similar to claim 4 but rewritten to depend from allowed claim 5 instead of claim 1. Therefore, claim 13 and 14 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

